Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01783 301255Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 EUR-12 /089 W

-----039313 310312Z /64

R 301235Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 842 INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN AMCONSUL DURBAN AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: VENDA MAY BE NEXT INDEPENDENT HOMELAND

REF: PRETORIA 5886 (77) AND PREVIOUS

- 1. ON MARCH 29, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS, CHIEF MINISTER OF VENDA, PATRICK MPHEPHU, INTRODUCED A MOTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CALLING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF INDEPENDENCE. THE MOTION WAS PASSED WITHOUT DISCUSSION. THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, BALDWIN MUDAU, REPORTEDLY WALKED OUT OF THE MEETING IN DISGUST WHEN HE WAS REFUSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO TABLE A MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE. MPHEPHU TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT HE WANTED TO TAKE THE MATTER OF INDEPENDENCE TO PRETORIA ONCE MORE BEFORE DISCUSSING IT FULLY WITH THE OPPOSITION.
- 2. MPHEPHU FACES ONE OF THE STRONGEST OPPOSITION GROUPS IN ALL OF THE HOMELANDS, AS MUDAU'S PARTY HOLDS 17 OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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18 ELECTED SEATS. AS IN THE OTHER HOMELANDS, THOUGH, MPHEPHU'S STRENGTH IS ASSURED BY THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTED HEADMEN WHO, IN THISE CASE, HOLD 42 SEATS IN THE 60 SEAT ASSEMBLY.

3. COMMENT: MPHEPHU HELD TALKS WITH PRETORIA ON INDEPENDENCE LAST YEAR (PRETORIA A-151) AND IT APPEARS

HE IS NOW LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR FORMING THE NEXT NEW STATE. HE DOES, HOWEVER, FACE A VIGOROUS AND CAPABLE, IF NOT POWERFUL, OPPOSITION, AND IS APPARENTLY MOVING WITH CAUTION SO THAT MUDAU CAN NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ROUSE ANY SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR ANTI-INDEPENDENCE. AN EMBOFF HOPES TO VISIT VENDA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS FOR A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE STATE OF PLAY.

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Message Attributes

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Subject: VENDA MAY BE NEXT INDEPENDENT HOMELAND

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF, (MPHEPHU, PATRICK), (MUDAU, BALDWIN)

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